



Activities and Roles for Community Partners for Walk to School

COORDINATOR:

- Put together a Walk to School Day event team and begin to plan your event. Include parents, students, teachers, and community organizations (such as public health entities, SAFE KIDS coalitions, schools, PTA's, fire fighters, police, and EMS).
- Be sure your school is registered on the Nebraska and National Walk to School websites.

Schools:

- Agree to participate in Walk to School Day.
- Recruit volunteers and build awareness for the event. Example: make announcements at Parent and Student Council meetings, include information in your school newsletter, distribute Walk to School Day flyers to students and parents, put up Walk to School Day posters.
- Have a class or school assembly devoted to the benefits of walking and biking to school and ask students to create materials that reflect the benefits of walking and biking to school.
- List local walking school bus routes and 'drivers' in newsletters to inform parents and students of these neighborhood chaperones. Also have the list accessible in the front office. Provide background checks on the bus 'drivers' or ask the local police to provide this service.

PTA's:

- Recruit neighbors in surrounding school boundary areas to agree to be a Walking School Bus Driver. Seek out stay-at-home parents, parents with home offices, and senior citizens.
- Utilize the bus drivers to participate in the walkability checklist and eventual safe route to school plan for their respective neighborhoods.
- Distribute Walk to School Day flyers to the local library, Boys and Girls Clubs, and other public places, and help distribute at the school.
- Help coordinate the event at the school site.

Public Health

- Provide a health educator to share information on health benefits of walking to teachers, parents, and students.
- Find resources, such as healthy snacks or prizes for participants.
- Assist in getting media coverage.
- Hang Walk to School Day posters and distribute pedestrian safety information to clients.
- Encourage the mayor and other community leaders to put Walk to School Day on their calendars and/or participate in the event.
- Encourage health department staff to participate in Walk to School Day.
- Aid schools in mapping safe routes to school.

Safe Kids Coalition

- Provide coordinator for the project.
- Assist in securing media coverage.
- Provide contacts with local police, fire, and EMS to be on hand during the event to provide safety precautions to ensure safety during the event.
- Recruit volunteers to walk through neighborhoods with a walkability checklist and report results.
- Using walkability checklists and school boundary walking recommendations, create a walking school bus/biking safe route.
- Help train the Walking School Bus Drivers about correct pedestrian safety issues in selecting and walking a safe route to school